

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: Chair Mark Blasdel, on March 9, 2017 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Mark Blasdel, Chair (R)
Sen. Roger Webb, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)
Sen. Sue Malek (D)
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

Members Excused: Sen. Scott Sales (R), Sen. Fred Thomas (R)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jaret Coles, Legislative Branch
Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 244, 2/24/2017; SB 327, 2/24/2017

Executive Action: HB 175, HB 209, HB 226

00:00:42 Chairman Blasdel

HEARING ON SB 327

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:27 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 327, Reduce the Montana business equipment tax.

[EXHIBIT\(tas49a01\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony:

00:04:48 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce (MCC)

[EXHIBIT\(tas49a02\)](#)

00:10:23 Sen. Richmond entered the meeting.

00:13:01 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers

00:14:15 Riley Johnson, National Federation of Independent Business

00:15:48 Elaine Taylor, Montana Beverage Association

00:16:37 Margaret Morgan, Montana Independent Electrical Contractors

00:17:59 Spook Stang, Motor Carriers of Montana

00:20:43 Nicole Rolf, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

00:21:18 Ed Bartlett, Billings Area Chamber of Commerce and Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce

00:21:42 Jay Bodner, Montana Stockgrowers Association

00:22:28 Ronda Wiggers, Helena Chamber of Commerce

00:23:04 Sen. Malek left the meeting.

00:23:16 Julia Altemus, Montana Wood Products Association

00:24:04 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties

Opponents' Testimony:

00:25:54 Mike Kadas, director, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)

00:29:37 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center

00:32:26 Robert Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MONTAX)

[EXHIBIT\(tas49a03\)](#)

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:36:51 Sen. Barrett

00:37:36 Mr. Story, MONTAX

00:37:49 Sen. Barrett

00:38:03 Mr. Story

00:38:09 Sen. Barrett

00:38:46 Mr. Kadas, DOR

00:39:11 Sen. Barrett

00:39:33 Mr. Kadas

00:39:49 Sen. Barrett

00:40:03 Mr. Kadas
 00:40:30 Sen. Barrett
 00:40:45 Mr. Kadas
 00:41:00 Sen. Barrett
 00:41:15 Mr. Kadas
 00:41:29 Sen. Barrett
 00:42:00 Mr. Mahlum, MCC
 00:42:50 Sen. Barrett
 00:43:09 Mr. Mahlum
 00:43:35 Sen. Barrett
 00:44:03 Mr. Mahlum
 00:44:37 Sen. Barrett
 00:45:12 Sen. Cohenour
 00:46:07 Mr. Mahlum
 00:46:51 Sen. Cohenour
 00:47:08 Mr. Mahlum
 00:47:25 Sen. Hoven
 00:48:11 Mr. Kadas
 00:49:17 Sen. Hoven
 00:49:32 Mr. Kadas
 00:50:09 Sen. Cohenour
 00:51:12 Mr. Kadas
 00:54:31 Sen. Hoven
 00:56:10 Mr. Kadas
 00:57:15 Sen. Tempel
 00:57:50 Mr. Mahlum

Closing by Sponsor:

00:58:53 Sen. Webb
 01:05:32 Chairman Blasdel

HEARING ON SB 244

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:06:16 Sen. Roger Webb (R), SD 23, opened the hearing on SB 244, Exempt portion of homestead market value from property taxes.

[EXHIBIT\(tas49a04\)](#)

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony:

01:11:09 Ronda Wiggers, Montana County Treasurers Association
 01:15:05 Robert Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MONTAX)
 01:19:15 Harold Blattie, Montana Association of Counties
 01:19:33 Mike Kadas, Montana Department of Revenue

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:20:10 Sen. Barrett
 01:20:45 Mr. Story, MONTAX
 01:20:49 Sen. Barrett
 01:21:15 Sen. Webb
 01:22:10 Sen. Barrett
 01:22:30 Sen. Webb
 01:23:04 Sen. Barrett
 01:23:48 Sen. Webb

Closing by Sponsor:

01:24:37 Sen. Webb
 01:28:42 Chairman Blasdel
 01:29:09 Recess
 01:46:17 Reconvened
 01:46:17 Chairman Blasdel

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 175

01:46:24 **Motion:** Sen. R. Webb moved that **HB 175 BE CONCURRED IN.**
 01:46:34 Chairman Blasdel
 01:46:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. Malek voted by proxy. Sen. Sales and Sen. Thomas were excused. Sen. McClafferty will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 209

01:47:20 **Motion:** Sen. R. Webb moved that **HB 209 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

01:47:26 Chairman Blasdel
 01:47:34 Sen. Cohenour
 01:47:56 Sen. Malek entered the meeting.
 01:48:24 **Vote:** Motion carried 7-5 by roll call vote with Sen. Barrett, Sen. Cohenour, Sen. Malek, Sen. McClafferty and Sen. Pomnichowski voting no. Sen. S. Sales and Sen. Thomas voted by proxy. Sen. Ankney will carry the bill.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 226

01:49:28 Chairman Blasdel

01:49:37 **Motion:** Sen. R. Webb moved that **HB 226 BE CONCURRED IN.**

Discussion:

01:49:44 Chairman Blasdel

01:49:48 Sen. Barrett

01:50:44 Sen. Tempel

01:51:07 Sen. Hoven

01:52:01 **Vote:** Motion failed 6-6 by roll call vote with Sen. Blasdel, Sen. Hoven, Sen. Richmond, Sen. S. Sales, Sen. Thomas and Sen. R. Webb voting aye. Sen. S. Sales and Sen. Thomas voted by proxy.

Discussion:

01:52:56 Chairman Blasdel

01:54:05 Sen. Barrett

01:54:53 Chairman Blasdel

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:55 AM

Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([tas49aad.pdf](#))